

REMARKS

The examiner's action dated January 5, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mayol et al. (U.S. Pat 5,357,963). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim rejections — 35 USC §102

The present patent application claims "an echographic probe (...) wherein the transducer (...) [is] able to come into contact with the structure to be examined (claim 1).

Mayol describes an echographic probe the transducer (40) of which is housed in a housing (32), behind a window (34), the housing being filled by a coupling liquid. Only the window (34) is designed to be applied to the structure (member) to be examined. (col.3 lines 15-17).

Thus, the transducer in Mayol is not designed to come into contact with the structure to be examined, and is not capable of coming in contact with that structure.

Moreover, the present patent application claims "an echographic probe (...) wherein the transducer (...) [has] a convex axisymmetric outer surface (claim 1).

Mayol recites an echographic probe the transducer (40) of which has a concave front face (col.3 line 67).

Furthermore, Mayol discloses a probe designed to work at an ultrasound frequency which is of the order of 10 MHz. It doesn't deal with the absorption of high frequencies (from 15 MHz, for example 20MHz) by the presence of the liquid and membrane between the transducer and the structure to be examined.

Moreover, Mayol is one of the prior art probes the numerous drawbacks of which are suppressed by the probes claimed in the present patent application.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

Appln. No. 10/590,566
Amd. dated April 3, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2009

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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